

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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USIA-06 OMB-01 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 /076 W

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R 150653Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9120

INFO AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 7501

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TN, NZ, R, EFIS

SUBJ: SOVIET-TONGAN RELATIONS

1. TONGA CONSUL GENERAL IN SYDNEY, A MR. WATERHOUSE, WHO IS A WELL-KNOWN SYDNEY TURF ACCOUNTANT, AND MHR JACK BERNIE, LIB-NSW, CALLED ON AMBASSADOR OCT 14 TO DISCUSS SOVIET-TONGAN RELATIONS.

2. WATERHOUSE SAID THAT THE KING OF TONGA WAS IN DIFFICULT FINANCIAL SITUATION AND WOULD BE PREPARED TO ALLOW SOVIETS UNRESTRICTED USE OF ISLAND OF LATE AS R & R FACILITY FOR TECHNICIANS FROM SOVIET RESEARCH STATIONS IN ANTARTICA AS WELL AS R & R FACILITY FOR SOVIET FISHING SHIPS IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC IF FRIENDLY GOVERNMENTS WERE NOT PREPARED TO ASSIST THE KING FINANCIALLY. WATERHOUSE SAID THAT KING WAS UNWILLING TO ASK FOR FRIENDLY ASSISTANCE AND WAS UNWILLING TO ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMMERCIAL VENTURES IN TONGA.

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3. AMBASSADOR EXPLAINED THAT TONGA WAS IN AMBASSADORIAL

JURISDICTION OF SELDEN IN WELLINGTON AND THAT
ALL WE COULD DO WOULD BE TO REPORT WATERHOUSE'S COMMENTS.

4. WATERHOUSE WENT ON TO EXPLAIN THAT HE WAS NOT AUTHORIZED TO SPEAK FOR THE KING, BUT IN HIS VIEW, THE KING HAD TO CREAT JOBS FOR HIS PEOPLE. HE THEN SUGGESTED THAT USG EITHER LOAN USS UNITED STATES TO TONGA TO SERVE AS A FLOATING HOTEL TO ATTRACT TOURISTS OR ALTERNATIVELY FOR USG TO ALLOW TONGA TO CONDUCT A LOTTERY IN THE US TO RAISE MONEY FOR A NEW AIRPORT AND/OR TOURIST FACILITIES.

5. EMBOFFS AND AMBASSADOR SUGGESTED THAT BOTH PROPOSALS DID NOT AT FIRST BLUSH SEEM TO MAKE MUCH SENSE ECONOMICALLY OR LEGALLY.

6. MEETING CONCLUDED UPON NOTE THAT WE WOULD REPORT WATERHOUSE'S VIEWS TO WASHINGTON AND AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON.

7. EMBOFF REPORTED SUBSTANCE OF ABOVE CONCERSATION TO GOGGINS, HEAD OF DFA'S SOUTH PACIFIC DIVISION. GAGGINS SAID THAT DFA HAD HEARD ALL THIS PREVIOUSLY FROM WATERHOUSE AND THAT WHILE WATERHOUSE'S ECONOMIC SOLUTIONS TO TONGA'S PROBLEMS WERE UNREALISTIC, DFA WAS CONCERNED THAT SOVIETS WERE ABOUT TO ESTABLISH SOME SORT OF FACILITY IN TONGA.

8. COMMENT: WATERHOUSE IS S SINCERE MAN, BUT WE ARE INCLINED TO VIEW HIM MORE AS A PROMOTER THAN AS A VALID REPRESENTATIVE OF THE KING OF TONGA. HOWEVER, HIS CONCERN ABOUT INCREASING SOVIET INFLUENCE IN TONGA IS REAL.
HARGROVE

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